

Appl. No. 09/786,666
Amdt. dated September 11, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

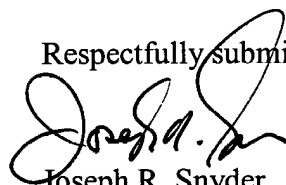
Upon entry of this amendment, claims 18-44 and 46-48 will be pending in this application and presented for examination. Applicants have canceled claims 1-4 and 10-12 without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner has indicated that claims 18-28 and 46-48 are allowable.

Claim 29 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being obvious over claims 16-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,451,530. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, claims 30-44 which depend directly, or indirectly on claim 29, are believed to be allowable as well. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection and objection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims that remain pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph R. Snyder
Reg. No. 39,381

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 925-472-5000
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
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